

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS ISSUE STATEMENTS ON GOG
RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS/TURKEY

1. SUMMARY. KANELLOPOULOS, LEADER OF NATIONAL RADICAL UNION (ERE) ISSUED LENGTHY STATEMENT TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS JULY 8 UNDERSCORING RUPTURE OF MORAL TIES BETWEEN ATHENS AND NICOSIA, CONSEQUENT CRISIS OF HELLENISM AND TURKISH RESPONSIBILITY FOR AEGEAN CONTROVERSY. GEORGE MAVROS, TITULAR HEAD OF CENTER UNION (CU), RELEASED STATEMENT SAME DAY WARNING THAT ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW CYPRUS GOVERNMENT WOULD LEAD TO PARTITION. END SUMMARY.

2. KANELLOPOULOS INTRODUCED STATEMENT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND NEIGHBORS, TURKEY AND CYPRUS, BY REMARKING THAT HIS SILENCE OVER PAST THREE YEARS ON GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AND CYPRUS WAS RESULT OF DESIRE TO AVERT ADDING FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS TO GRIEVOUS DOMESTIC ISSUES. HE EXPLAINED THAT EXTREMELY CRUCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES NOW LEAD HIM TO SPEAK OUT.

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AFTER REVIEW OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS OVER PAST DECADE,

KANELLOPOULOS OBSERVED THAT ATHENS AND ANKARA ACHIEVED A DYNAMIC BALANCE IN RELATIONS WHICH WAS POSSIBLE AS OUTCOME OF COMMON ATHENS/NICOSIA POLICY AND AS RESULT OF PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF ATHENS POLICY DECISIONS. KANELLOPOULOS INDICATED CLEARLY THAT WHILE GREEKS AGREE AEGEAN DISPUTE STEMS FROM UNACCEPTABLE DEMAND BY TURKEY PUBLIC IS CONCERNED SINCE MATTER IS HANDLED SECRETLY "AS IF THOSE DETERMINING DESTINIES OF NATION...HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO POWER BY GOD." EX-PREMIER ADDED THAT RESIGNATION OF TWO DISTINGUISHED CAREER DIPLOMATS AT THIS CRITICAL TIME (ATHENS-4348) HEIGHTENS POPULAR CONCERN.

3. TURNING TO RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS, KANELLOPOULOS POINTED OUT THAT WHILE ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS REPRESENTS LARGE MAJORITY OF GREEK CYPRIOTS, COOPERATION WITH HIM HAS NOT BEEN EASY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES...ALTHOUGH "THROUGH HIS OWN WILLING CONTRIBUTION CHARACTERIZED BY SAGACITY AND PRUDENCE A WAY HAS ALWAYS BEEN FOUND TO HARMONIZE ATHENS AND NICOSIA VIEWPOINTS." KANELLOPOULOS REGRETTED THAT SAD MOVEMENT HAD ARRIVED WHEN GOC SEEKING REMOVAL OF LARGE NUMBER OF GREEK OFFICERS AND ASSERTING THAT GREEK GOVERNMENT POLICY HAD LED CYPRUS TO THIS DECISION. AFTER NOTING IMPOSSIBILITY OF PERCEIVING GREEK GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS RE CYPRUS, FORMER PRIME MINISTER KANELLOPOULOS WROTE THAT HELLENISM, BECAUSE OF THREATENED DRAMATIC RUPTURE OF MORAL TIES BETWEEN ATHENS AND NICOSIA HAS ENTERED CRISIS THAT WILL HAVE... INCALCULABLE CONSEQUENCES AT HOUR WHEN CRISIS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY HAS BECOME ACUTE ALSO. KANELLOPOULOS CONCLUDED "I CONSIDER GREEK-TURKISH FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT UNDER PRECONDITION THAT ANKARA INDICATE THAT IT APPRECIATES THIS GOAL OF ENTIRE GREEK NATION AND WILL CEASE PUTTING FORWARD UNACCEPTABLE DEMANDS AT OUR EXPENSE." "I ALSO CONSIDER PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT RESTORATION OF HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN ATHENS AND NICOSIA..."

4. GEORGE MAVROS' STATEMENT (EMBASSY STILL UNABLE OBTAIN FULL TEXT) STRESSED THAT "NO NATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE OF CYPRUS AND THEIR ELECTED LEADER." HE ADDED THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER IN CYPRUS WOULD UNAVOIDABLE LEAD TO PARTITION OF ISLAND. "IF THIS IS AIM OF ATHENS REGIME LET IT STATE SUCH PLAINLY."

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5. COMMENT: BOTH STATEMENTS AND THOSE OF OTHER EX-POLITICIANS OVERSEAS RECENTLY RELEASED APPEAL FOR SETTLEMENT OF DIFFERENCES WITH TURKEY AND CYPRUS THROUGH OPEN DIPLOMACY AND STRESS IMPORTANCE OF POPULAR ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL POLICY. GREEK LANGUAGE PRESS DID NOT PUBLISH STATEMENTS AND ATHENS NEWS ONLY MENTIONED EXISTENCE.

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